

Message Text

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43

ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4319

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STATE FOR CU/ARTS; LENINGRAD FOR P&C

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJ: EXCHANGES: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS: JOFFREY BALLET

REF: (A) STATE 241128; (B) STATE 016064

1. AT NOVEMBER 5TH MEETING WITH GOSK DEPUTY-DIRECTOR MYASOYEDOV, EMBOFF AGAIN ADVOCATED PERFORMANCES IN VILNIUS ON DECEMBER 7TH AS WELL AS CHANGING MOSCOW PREMIERE TO DECEMBER 10.TH. MYASOYEDOV CORDIALLY, BUT FIRMLY DECLINED BOTH PROPOSALS, EXPLAINING THAT MATTER HAD BEEN TAKEN TO DEPUTY-MINISTER-OF-CULTURE LEVEL IN ORDER OBTAIN VILNIUS AS FOURTH PERFORMANCE SITE, AND THAT IT WAS ONLY WITH GRET DIFFICULTY THAT VILNIUS THEATER WAS MADE AVAILABLE AT ALL AT SUCH LATE DATE. WHEN IT CAME TO MYASOYEDOV'S ATTENTION YESTERDAY THAT JOFFREY AGAIN DEMANDED FOURRTH DAY IN VILNIUS, HE INQUIRED THROUGH HIS CHANNELS TO ATTEMPT ARRANGE TWO PERFORMANCES ON SEVENTH, BUT WAS TOLD THAT THEATER RESERVED FOR VILNIUS COMPANY ITSELF BEGINNING THE SEVENTH. MYASOYEDOV ADDED THAT IT WAS VILNIUS COMPANY THAT WAS DISLODGED BY JOFFREY'S QUOTE LAST-MINUTE INSISTENCE ON FOURTH CITY ENDQUOTE.

2. RE JOFFREY POINT THAT FIVE RATHER THAN FOUR PERFORMANCES IN VILNIUS ARE NECESSARY TO DISPLAY COMPANY AT ITS BEST, EMBASSY NOTES THAT ALL BALLETS PROPOSED FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE FIFTH PROGRAM ARE INCLUDED IN PROGRAM FOR FIRST FOUR

PERFORMANCES.

3. MYASOYEDOV UNABLE POSTPONE MOSCOW PREMIERE UNTIL DECEMBER 10TH, POINTING OUT THAT SINCE THERE CAN BE NO PERFORMANCES IN VILNIUS ON THE SEVENTH, THE REQUISITE PERIOD FOR TRAVEL AND REST, AS STATED IN THE CONTRACT, IS PROVIDED FOR IF THE PREMIERE REMAINS THE NINTH. EMBASSY REITERATES THAT THERE HAS NEVER RPT NEVER BEEN ANY DISCUSSION OF WHICH DAYS OF WEEK ARE TO BE SCHEDULED AS FREE AND TRAVEL DAYS, AND THAT IF CRAWFORD HAD MEANT TO DESIGNATE SPECIFIC DAYS, I.E. MONDAY AND TUESDAY, HE SHOULD HAVE DONE SO BEFORE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED. AS FOR MOSCOW THEATER'S AVAILABILITY TWO DAYS BEFORE THE PREMIERE (STATE 241128, PARA 2), STATE 016046 SPECIFIES TWO FULL DAYS FOR REHEARSALS IN LENINGRAD ONLY. GOSK SAYS THEATER WILL BE AVAILABLE TO COMPANY EARLY ON EIGHTH FOR PREMIERE ON NINTH.

4. GOSK SAID QUOTE IT PROBABLY WOULD BE POSSIBLE
ENDQUOTE ARRANGE TWO PERFORMANCES ON SIXTEENTH AND ONE ON SEVENTHEENTH DECEMBER IF JOFFREY WISHES EXTEND MOSCOW APPEAR-
ANCE, BUT EMBASSY MUST KNOW ASAP IF COMPANY CAN REMAIN
THREE EXTRA DAYS. EMBASSY SUPPORTS PROPOSAL FOR THREE
EXTRA PERFORMANCES IN MOSCOW. (EMBASSY ALSO WISHES POINT
OUT THAT PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR SIXTEENTH AND SEVENTEENTH
APPEARS TO CONTRADICT CRAWFORD'S INSISTENCE ON STRICT
ADHERENCE TO THE MONDAY-TUESDAY RULE AND THEREBY WEAKENS
HIS ARGUMENT FOR CHANGING PREMIERE TO TENTH.)

5. GOSK'S SCHEDULE NOW STANDS: PREMIERE IN MOSCOW
DECEMBER 9TH; EVENING PERFORMANCE 10TH; EVENING PERFORMANCE
11TH; EVENING PERFORMANCE 12TH; AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION
AFTERNOON OF 13TH; EVENING PERFORMANCE 13TH; AND MATINEE
AND EVENING PERFORMANCES 14TH. TOTAL IN MOSCOW: SEVEN, PLUS
POSSIBLE MATINEE AND EVENING PERFORMANCES 16TH AND POSSIBLE
EVENING PERFORMANCE 17TH, THE 15TH BEING A FREE DAY. AT
SECOND MEETING WITH GOSK TODAY, EMBASSY ASKED IF 9TH
COULD BE CONSIDERED REHEARSAL DAY ONLY, IN LIGHT OF IMPORTANCE
TO COMPANY MOSCOW PREMIERE AND IN LIGHT OF COMPANY'S OFFER
TO EXTEND FOR THREE EXTRA PERFORMANCES. GOSK ANSWERED THAT
ITS SYSTEM OF PAYMENT FOR THEATERS WAS SUCH THAT PREMIERE
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CANNOT BE CHANGED.

6. FYI: IT IS MYASOYEDOV'S OPINION, STATED IN EMBOFF'S
PRESENCE, THAT FOR REASONS OF THEIR OWN, JOFFREY"
CRAWFOR ARE TRYING TO POSE OBSTACLES TO TOUR AND
FORCE CANCELLATION. FOR DEPUTY-DIRECTOR TO HOLD
SUCH OPINION PLACES EMBASSY IN DIFFICULT POSITION REGARD-
ING FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS FOR AMERICAN GROUPS. POINTED

REMARK FOLLOWED THAT HUOK ASSOCIATES ARE SO MUCH EASIER
TO DEAL WITH, AND EMBASSY FEARS IT BECOMING CLOSELY
IDENTIFIED WITH JOFFREY COMPANY'S LACK OF PROFESSIONALISM
IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS. ENDY FYI.

7. WISH TO REMIND DEPARTMENT THAT SOVIET HOLIDAYS
ON 7TH AND 8TH NECESSITATE RESPONSE BY BEGINNING OF
BUSINESS WEDNESDAY. IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH
ANY OFFICIAL SOVIET BETWEEN NOVEMBER 7TH AND 10TH.

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